The smooth-pedicelled *Solidago graminifolia*, as distinguished from the var. *Nuttallii* with hirtellous inflorescence, is a rare form, occurring at scattered stations in various parts of New England, except Connecticut. *Sclerolepis uniflora* is known only from a pond in Bradford, N. H., and from one on the boundary line between Massachusetts and Rhode Island. *Solidago uniligulata* has a rather distinctive range, which is not quite matched by any we have yet mapped, and which dovetails almost perfectly into the typical range of group IX. The calcicolous species of that group occur, in southern New England, almost wholly west of the Connecticut River; in the north they spread eastward through the calcareous areas of northern New Hampshire and central and northern Maine. *S. uniligulata*, a species of strongly acid meadow-bogs, is found, in southern New England, almost wholly east of the Connecticut and northward is almost confined to a belt about fifty miles wide along the Maine coast.

C. H. Knowlton
C. A. Weatherby
W. S. Ripley.

THE GENUS ERYSIMUM.

K. K. Mackenzie.

The description of Erysimum by Linnaeus in the fifth edition of the Genera Plantarum (p. 296) published in 1754 is as follows:

"729 ERYSIMUM* *Tournef.* 111.

"Cal. *Perianthium* tetraphyllum: *foliolis* ovato-oblongis, conniventibus, coloratis, deciduis.

"Cor. tetrapetala, cruciformis. *Petala* oblonga, plana, apice obtusissima: *unguibus* longitudine calycis, erectis.

"*Nectarifera* glandula duplex intra filamentum brevius.

"Stam. *Filamenta* sex, longitudine calycis: quorum *duo opposita* breviora. *Antherae* simplices.

"Pist. *Germen* lineare, tetragonum, longitudine staminum. *Stylus* brevissimus. *Stigma* capitatum, persistens, parvum.

"Per. *Siliqua* longa, linearis, stricta, tetragona, bivalvis, bilocularis.

"Sem. plurima, parva, subrotunda."

In the first edition of the Species Plantarum (p. 660) published in 1753 Linnaeus gave four species as follows: (1) *officinale;* (2) *Barbarea;* (3) *Alliaria;* (4) *cheiranthoides.*

Both the description quoted from the Genera Plantarum and the treatment in the Species Plantarum follow earlier works published by him before his introduction of the binomial system of nomenclature.

All recent authors refer the four species given under Erysimum by Linnaeus to four different genera. Tournefort had a very similar view, as he referred species No. 1 to *Erysimum;* No. 2 to *Sisymbrium;* No. 3 to *Hesperis;* No. 4 to *Turriis.*

The name Erysimum is a very old one for cruciferous plants and appears in most of the old works I believe. Very few if any of the earlier authors used the name without figuring or citing as *Erysimum* the plant we now know as *Erysimum officinale.* It is so figured for example by Pena & Lobel p. 69 (1570); Lobel Stirp. Icon. 206 (1581); Dodonaeus Pemptades 714 (1616); Parkinson Theat. Bot. 833 (1640); Morison Hist. Univ. p. 218 and tab. 3 sect. 3 f. 1 (1680). It is certainly to be regarded as the historic type of *Erysimum,* if the plant by far most generally considered as *Erysimum* is to be so regarded.

The first scientist to deal with *Erysimum* after 1753 as far as I know was Miller in 1754 (Gard. Dict. Abr. Ed. 4). He put five species in the genus. His first species is the same as the first species of Linnaeus (*E. officinale*). He treated as belonging to the genus *Erysimum* the plants treated by Linnaeus as *Sisymbrium Irio, S. polyceratium* and *S. Sophia.* In other words his conception of *Erysimum* is very much the same as the conception of *Sisymbrium* as given in Gray's Manual 7th edition.

Miller dealt with the other species placed by Linnaeus in *Erysimum* as follows:

He referred species No. 2 (*Barbarea*) to *Sisymbrium.*

He referred species No. 3 (*Alliaria*) to *Hesperis.*

He referred species No. 4 (*cheiranthoides*) to *Turritis* (Turritis leucoii folio).

Under the American Code of nomenclature the name *Erysimum* undoubtedly must be used for a group of plants to which *Erysimum officinale* is referred. In other words that species is the type of the genus.

The International Code of nomenclature requires that on the division of a genus "if the genus contains a section or some other division which judging by its name or its species, is the type or the origin of the group the name is reserved for that part of it." (Art. 45.) It also provides that in the case of the union of two groups of the same date a selection of a name for the combined group is to be made by the author first making the union, and that his choice cannot be changed by subsequent authors. Applying the first rule above referred to one would say that in view of Tournefort's plate cited by Linneaus and the long pre-Linnaean use of *Erysimum* for *E. officinale*, the International Code requires the use of the name *Erysimum* in the same way as does the American Code. Applying to breaking up a genus the same rule as the International Code applies to the union of two genera one would say that the International Code (if other provisions are not applicable) plainly requires us to follow what Miller did and apply the name *Erysimum* to *E. officinale*.

Under neither system of nomenclature is the use of *Erysimum* as it is used in Gray's Manual justified.

Maplewood, New Jersey.

NOTES ON DISTICHLIS.

Norman C. Fassett.

Many recent writers[1] have treated *Distichlis spicata* as a species of wide range on both coasts of North America and in alkaline places inland. Rydberg,[2] on the other hand, has treated the genus as having two species in the Rocky Mountains, *D. stricta* (Torr.) Rydb. and *D. dentata* Rydb., both distinct from the eastern *D. spicata*.

Careful examination of many collections of *Distichlis* has convinced the writer that *D. spicata*, common along the Atlantic Coast of North America, is on the Pacific Coast restricted to the region of Puget Sound, and that the plant generally distributed on the western coast and in the Rocky Mountains is a distinct species, *D. stricta*. This latter plant is of broad range, is polymorphic, and probably consists of a number of varieties.

[1] Hitchcock in Gray, Manual, ed. 7: 153–4 (1908); Britton & Brown, Ill. Fl. ed. 2: i. 250 (1913); Abrams, Ill. Fl. Pacific States i. 194 (1923); Small, Fl. Southeastern U. S., ed. 2: 152 (1913); Coulter & Nelson, New Man. Bot. Central Rocky Mts. 68 (1909).

[2] Rydberg, Fl. Rocky Mts., ed. 2: 72 (1923).